the estimated carryover stock is around 18.50 lakh bales. Estimated production of raw jute of 98 lakh bales in 1997-98. Expected demand of raw jute to the tune of 92.50 lakh bales in 1997-98, prices of raw jute started to slide downwards from April, 1997 and dropped sharply in May & June, 1997. The Ministry was aware of the situation and accordingly JCI was directed to commence Price Support Operations in June, 1997. JCI started Price Support Operation in the early grown areas of West Bengal in July, 1997 as soon as the arival of raw jute started in trickling from third week of July, 1997. As such there was hardly any delay in procurement by JCI.

(f) the present status of procurement by Jute Corporation of India is given below:—

(In lakh bales of 180 Kgs.)

Particulars	Production	Procurement upto 11.11.97	Estimated arrivals upto 11.11.1997	Procurement as % of arrivals
All India	98.00	5.20	30.91	17
west Bengal	60.82	3.47	21.42	16

Monitoring of prices of raw Jute in the Country

143. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the agency responsible for monitoring the price of raw jute in various jute growing belts in the country;

(b) when government was informed about the sharp decline in the prices below M.S.P. level this season;

(c) when Jute Corporation of India intervened to ensure that the prices operate above MSP, specially in West Bengal; and

(d) the reasons for the delay in intervention?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) The Jute Corporation of India Ltd. is responsible for monitoring the prices of raw jute in various jute growing belts in the Country.

(b) Government was aware of the downward slide in the prices of raw jute right from the beginning of this season.

(c) the JCI started Price Supprt Operation in the early sown areas of West Bengal from 25.7.1997.

(d) Arrival of raw jute start in trickling from the third week of July, and as such there was hardly any delay in intervention in the market by the JCI.

Annual demand of cotton in the country

144. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of annual demand of cotton in the country, State-wise;

(b) what is the total quantity of cotton produced in Punjab during the last three years; year-wise; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government with regards to expansion of cotton mills in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) The Cotton Advisory Board (CAB) estimates the demand of cotton for the country as a whole. The demand for cotton for 1996-97 as estimated by the CAB was 182.50 lakh bales.

(b) the quantity of cotton produced in the State of Punjab during the last three years is as under:

Year	Production
1994-95	15.00
1995-96	15.15
1996-97	16.00

(in lakh bales of 170 Kgs. each)

SOURCE:CAB

(c) Government have liberalised the industrial policy and as per the liberalised industrial policy, notified on 25.7.91, there is no restriction on the setting up of cotton textile mills, except for certain locational restrictions, irrespective of whether the proposed mills are in the public, private or cooperative sectors.

Export Quota of cotton bales for Maharashtra

145. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has taken any decision to increase export quota of cotton bales to the Government of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether a panel of Members of Rajya Sabha, appointed by the Agriculture Ministry has recommended to increase the export quota of cotton bales for the State; and

(d) if so, by when his Ministry is planning to accept the recommendations of the above said panel?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Cotton export quotas are released by the Government to various State Federations, CCI, NAFED, trade etc., from time to time every year, after taking into account all relevant factors, including estimated production, availability, domestic demand and likely surplus of cotton, as well as price trends, etc.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Agriculture has not appointed a panel of Members of Rajya Ssbha. However, a Committee of Members of Rajya Sabha on Problems of Cotton Growers constituted by the Hon'ble Chairman of Rajya Sabha on 3rd August, 1995 presented its report to Rajya Sabha on the 12th August, 1997. In the Committee's recommendations regarding the release of cotton export quota to CCI and State Cooperative Marketing Federations, there is no separate recommendation for increase in export quota exclusively for Maharashtra Federation.

Programmes/Projects to maximise use of Brahmaputra water

146. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the details of the Programmes/projects formulated by the Brahmaputra Board to maximise use of Brahmaputra-waters as on date and details of the targets set-out and achievement levels secured in this context?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Since its formation in December 1981, Brahmaputra Board has drawn up Master Plans for comprehensive flood management in both the Brahmaputra and Barak Valleys. Master Plan Part-I concerns the main stem of the Brahmpura river, master Plan Part-II concerns the river Barak and its tributaries. The Master Plan Part-III covers 38 tributaries of the Brahmaputra and 8 rivers of Tripura. Master Plans Part-I and Part-II have been approved by the Union Government for adaptation by the States to implement flood management schemes. Master Plan Part III was circulated to the concerned North Eastern States for their views and comments and on the basis of their